

27 March 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, [REDACTED]

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SUBJECT : Macmillan's Concern for Copyright

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1. Yesterday I had a meeting with Mr. Rayner, head of the Washington Office of Macmillan, Inc. and two other officials who share in the management of the translation project of the multi-volume Large Soviet Encyclopedia. They imparted that, in light of the forthcoming signing of the Universal Copyright Convention by the USSR, Macmillan has obtained the world-wide license for publishing and selling the English-language version of the Soviet Encyclopedia, whose volumes will be published under copyright after 28 May. In legal terms, Macmillan will be claiming property rights for the English version, and therefore, queries us [REDACTED] to consider payment for a fee since we are currently translating portions from the Encyclopedia volumes (see enclosed sample). Macmillan does not dispute the need of the U.S. Government to have articles translated whenever necessary but wishes to express its property rights as a commercial publisher. There was no animosity on their part -- they wanted to ask me how to go about claiming from the U.S. Government [REDACTED] their legal rights as understood in the publishing business.

2. They are aware of the U.S. Government's confusion on how the USSR copyright will affect the translation of Russian material but I agreed to let them know how we would deal with their request. In general, other U.S. publishing companies might obtain similar licenses from the USSR government for translating certain Russian journals and monographs into English and how will the U.S. Government handle cases when it needs a translation of an article from a journal that has been transferred to a U.S. publisher? E.g., the Plenum Publishing Corporation is now translating 70 Russian journals from cover-to-cover and if it obtains world-wide licensing for the English version, it might claim property rights whenever the U.S. Government translates an individual article from one of the journals.

3. In regard to the [REDACTED] titled Contemporary Biographies From the Large Soviet Encyclopedia, I presume that the biographic data could be put on cards exclusively and Macmillan might be informed that our requestors discontinued to have the biographic data translated and instead would await the translations of the Encyclopedia volumes, i.e. the data would become part of the Russian biographic card project.

4. Guidance for answering Macmillan's query would be appreciated.

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